

Mayor John Grogan and members of City Council are asking for citizens to participate in creating a slogan for our city seal. The seal slogan currently reads, "One of Ohio's Better Villages Since 1814." Our letterhead has the slogan, "A Friendly Community Since 1814." Before making a decision we would like to hear from you. If you like one of the current slogans or have an idea for a new City of Canal Fulton slogan please email us at citymgr@cityofcanalfulton.org.

Requests for Qualifications are in. Eight consulting firms from Ohio and one from Michigan responded to our request. Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township, with input from the Stark County Regional Planning Commission, will now begin the process of selecting a consultant to develop a comprehensive plan for our community. An important facet of any municipal plan is community input. Once a consultant is selected, members of our community will be invited to participate in the planning process. We will evaluate and develop a plan for land use, services, transportation, facilities and economic development.

Another issue that seems to be getting a lot of press lately is annexation. When discussing annexation in relation to Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township there are a few points to consider.

When property owners outside the city limits decide that they want to become part of our city they must hire an attorney and petition the Stark County Board of Commissioners. When this occurs we encourage them to use the Expedited Type II form of annexation. This will keep the land permanently as part of Lawrence Township. The township retains all of its inside millage of property tax. In this way when the land is developed, Lawrence Township and Canal Fulton both benefit from the increased valuation. Over time the township will see an increase in revenue from a development in the city over what they were collecting on the same property before annexation, without the need to provide any services to the area. With Expedited Type II annexations the end result more resembles a merger than the typical annexations that our communities have been accustomed to.

The City of Canal Fulton is not soliciting property owners to annex. No one can be annexed against their will through an Expedited Type II annexation. The only way that we as a city can manage and benefit from the growth that is occurring around us is to make that growth part of the city. We should be flattered that people want to become part of our town.

The City of Canal Fulton was rated as one of the best places to live and raise a family in the Akron area by Akron Magazine. Let's work together to keep it that way.